

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 A-01

OPR-02 /070 W

----- 035088

R 091550Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9096

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0295

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN GR EG

SUBJECT: COMMISSARY SHIPMENTS OUTSIDE GREECE

REF: ATHENS 10111

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES SENSITIVE SITUATION WHICH IS INVOLVED IN THE RENEGOTIATION OF US-GREEK SOFA AND CAN UNDERSTAND REASON FOR LIMITATION OF COMMISSARY SHIPMENTS TO NORMAL AMOUNT USUALLY SHIPPED TO CAIRO.

2. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS WORKS A CERTAIN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ON MEMBERS OF EMBASSY CAIRO STAFF, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT JUNIOR LEVEL, BECAUSE OF HIGH COMMISSARY PRICES DUE TO ASTRONOMICAL FREIGHT COSTS FOR STATESIDE SHIPMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN NECESSARY BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS USAF COMMISSARY INABILITY TO FILL NORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY'S COMMISSARY. THIS RESTRICTION COMES AT AN ESPECIALLY UNFORTUANTE TIME WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO ARRANGE A CONTRACT WITH NEWLY ESTABLISHED TRUCKING FIRM WHICH COULD HAVE REDUCED FREIGHT COSTS CONSIDERABLY.

3. WHILE WE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY QUESTION FINAL DECISION OF EMBASSY ATHENS, WE REQUEST THAT RECONSIDERATION

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BE GIVEN TO REMOVING ANY WEIGHT LIMITATION IN ORDER

TO PERMIT THIS EMBASSY, UNDER ITS NEW TRUCKING CONTRACT,
TO SHIP ONE FULL TRUCK-LOAD PER MONTH. (WEIGHT WILL
VARY DEPENDING ON TYPE OF MERCHANDISE.)

4. WE HAVE LOOKED INTO OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR
OBTAINING COMMISSARY SUPPLIES IN THE PAST WHEN USAF COMMISSARY
WAS UNABLE TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS AND KNOW THAT THEY
ARE EITHER NON-EXISTENT OR EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE THAN
OUR PRESENT SYSTEM OF IMPORTING A LARGE PART OF OUR
REQUIREMENTS DIRECTLY FROM THE US.

5. WHILE WE ARE RELUCTANT TO BURDEN YOU WITH OUR
PROBLEM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF EMBASSY
ATHENS COULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN ORDER
SEE WHETHER IT COULD AGREE TO A SINGLE MONTHLY
TRUCK RUN FOR CAIRO COMMISSARY UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.

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